

the Desert Empire Fair, and the Maturango Museum. In addition, he has also served as an elected trustee of the Trona Joint Unified School District, and as a board member for the Council on Substance Abuse Awareness and the Searles Valley Community Service Council. Jim is also a past member of the San Bernardino County Air Pollution Control Advisory Council and a member of the Kern County Air Pollution Central District Hearing Board.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, Jim's wife, Grace, and his family and many friends in recognizing his many fine achievements and selfless contributions. Over the years, Jim Smith has touched the lives of many people and it is only fitting that the House of Representatives recognize him today.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PATCHOGUE FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 1995

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Patchogue Fire Department on 115 years of excellent service to the residents of the village of Patchogue and the East Patchogue Fire Protection District. I would like to extend my applause to the Southern New York Volunteer Firemen's Association on celebrating the 100th anniversary of their convention.

The Patchogue Fire Department has established a tradition as one of the oldest and finest fire departments in New York. The firemen of Patchogue are among the best trained and bravest fire fighters in New York as well. These firemen regularly risk their lives to protect and serve the people of Patchogue. Upon examining their impeccable service record, it is no surprise that the Patchogue Fire Department has been protecting the village of Patchogue so well for 115 years.

On Friday, June 9, 1995, the men and women of the Patchogue Fire Department will celebrate at the 100th Annual Convention of the Southern New York Volunteer Firemen's Association. This association, which represents the volunteer and exempt firemen of the nine southern counties, stands as evidence that New York does in fact have among the best firemen in the Nation.

REMEMBERING A HERO, HUMBLE SERVANT

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 1995

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, the Army Corps of Engineers, our southern region and the nation lost a humble servant, war hero and good friend when Mitchell "Stoney" Merriman died last week from complications of an inoperable brain tumor.

Originally from White County, Tennessee, Stoney wrote the book on public relations—literally. A published author, newsman and writer, Stoney had such a creative and innovative style that he wrote a how-to book for the Corps that is used nationwide today.

Since 1987, he managed the Army Corps Nashville District's public information, media relations and community relations program in a 7-State area. I cannot think of anyone who knew how to promote an event better.

In Corps events and groundbreakings in my district, Stoney always amazed us with something new, creative and exciting. His style blazed a trail for all to follow and his legacy will be long remembered.

Stoney was more than just a top-notch public relations man. He was a veteran newsman, and even more importantly, a war hero.

During his 23 years of service in the U.S. Marine Corps, he served two combat tours in Vietnam, where he served as a combat journalist. Among his awards were two Purple Hearts, Legion of Merit Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, the Bronze Star with Combat "V" Medal and several other awards.

As a newsman, Stoney started in the military, but carried on his tradition of excellence at the "The Smithville Review" and then as publisher and editor of the "Carthage, TN Courier."

I am proud of Stoney Merriman. He was committed, honest and hard working in everything he did—whether it was a Corps event placing his life in harm's way to protect and defend his country. He was a joy to be with, and his service must always be remembered.

TRIBUTE TO JIM HENRY

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 1995

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to Jim Henry, a constituent of mine who was recently awarded the Small Business Administration's "1995 Small Business Person of the Year" award for the State of Missouri.

Ten years ago Mr. Henry left his job with Emerson Electric and bought R.C. Wilson Co., a small collection agency in St. Louis, MO. At the time Mr. Henry bought R.C. Wilson he had no small business experience or background, but he did have a can-do philosophy, which has helped him build one of the most successful collection companies in our city. Over the past 10 years, sales, employment, and clientele at R.C. Wilson have grown significantly. Sales have increased by 200 percent, while employment at R.C. Wilson have grown from 25 to 118. At the same time, his company's collection success rate is over 30 percent—higher than the 22 percent average for the industry.

Mr. Henry explains his success this way: "The way a business owner treats employees makes or breaks a business. The key to long-term success is to treat your employees with dignity and always maintain the highest level of integrity and honesty in all dealings." This attitude is reflected in the companies employee benefit policies. R.C. Wilson Co. has a generous tuition reimbursement program which enables many employees to continue their education through post-graduate levels. The company also provides an annual scholarship for Missouri Business Week to the child of one employee. The company also shares profits with its employees.

Mr. Speaker, I want to close by again offering Mr. Henry my congratulations on being

named the 1995 Missouri Small Business Person of the Year, and to wish him and the employees of R.C. Wilson Co. continued success.

HONORING VICE ADM. THOMAS J. KILCLINE, USN RETIRED

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 1995

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Vice Adm. Thomas J. Kilcline, USN [Retired] on the eve of his retirement from his position as president of The Retired Officers Association. Because of his many accomplishments, I consider it appropriate to formally recognize him for his more than 50 years of service to this Nation.

Admiral Kilcline was born in Detroit, MI, on December 9, 1925. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1943, graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1949, and was designated a naval aviator in November 1950 after which he flew with VR-5 until 1953. Admiral Kilcline attended the Naval Postgraduate School and later Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he earned a masters degree in aeronautical engineering in 1956.

He then joined Heavy Attack Squadron Nine, serving on the *Saratoga* and *Ranger*. In 1959, he was assigned to the staff of the commander Sixth Fleet. He completed the command and staff course at the Naval War College and in 1962 completed test pilot school. He was later assigned as coordinator of test programs for all attack aircraft at the Naval Air Test Center. In January 1965, Kilcline reported to Heavy Attack Squadron Eleven [VAH-11] aboard the *Forestall*. He commanded an RA5C squadron deployed to the Vietnam theater. He returned to the staff of the commander Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet in August 1967, and a year later was assigned as operations officer and later executive officer aboard the U.S.S. *Ticonderoga* [CVA-14] during operations off Vietnam. He then became program manager for acquisition and support of the RA-5C aircraft, Naval Air Systems Command. In October 1970, he was named director of liaison with the House of Representatives under the Navy Office of Legislative Affairs.

From August 1972 until May 1974, Kilcline was commanding officer, Naval Air Station, Patuxent River, MD. He was then assigned as director of aviation officer distribution, aviation captain detailer and later, assistant chief of Naval Personnel, Officer Distribution and Education. In August 1975, he assumed command of Naval Base Subic Bay with duties as commander in chief Pacific representative in the Philippines and commander U.S. Naval Forces, Philippines. He became chief, Legislative Affairs in February 1978 and in July 1981, was assigned as commander Naval Air Forces, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. He retired from the Navy in 1983.

His awards include the Distinguished Service Medal; the Legion of Merit with three gold stars; the Bronze Star; the Air Medal; and awards from the governments of the Philippines and the Republic of Vietnam.

Following retirement, Admiral Kilcline formed a military and congressional consulting firm